

Wetland



Wetland

- A *wetland* habitat is where the ground is saturated with and sometimes covered in water.
- In Zion, wetlands include swamps and marshes and are typically found near rivers and streams.
- Many different plants and animals (both land and water dwelling) find homes in wetlands.
- Zion wetland features:
 - Unavoidable water, often in shallow pools
 - Humid air
 - Moist, soft soil
 - Sun on the outside and shade beneath the larger plants

Cliff



Cliff

- A *cliff* is a large, vertical, exposed rock.
- In Zion, cliffs are made of sandstone and tower about 1,000-2,000 feet over the canyon floor.
- Some very hardy plants and animals find homes on a cliff.
- Zion cliff features:
 - Occasional water from rain or snow
 - Exposure to wind and extreme temperatures (hot and cold)
 - Little-to-no soil
 - Sun on the cliff face, shady in overhangs
 - Difficult to access
 - Lots of cracks, alcoves, and small caves

Riparian



Riparian

- The *riparian* habitat is the area where land and flowing water meet.
- In Zion the riparian habitat occurs mostly along the Virgin River and small streams.
- Many different plants and animals (both land and water dwelling) find homes in riparian habitats.
- Zion riparian habitat features:
 - Water readily available, still pools of water sometimes present
 - Moist, nutrient-rich soil
 - Sun on the outside and shade on the interior of the tree canopy
 - Annual flash floods rush through the area
 - Rocks and flood debris are often present

Desert



Desert

- A *desert* habitat is where potential for water loss (by plant and animal use, and by evaporation) is greater than gain.
- In Zion, desert habitat covers the park's lowest elevation.
- Very hardy plants and animals find homes in a desert.
- Zion desert features:
 - Little water availability
 - Very dry air, sometimes windy
 - Dry and often salty soil
 - Lots of sunlight
 - Extreme heat in summer, cold in winter
 - Bare rocks and cliffs are sometimes present

Pinyon-Juniper Woodland



Pinyon-Juniper Woodland

- A *pinyon-juniper woodland* is a forest community dominated by juniper and pinyon pine trees.
- In Zion the pinyon-juniper woodland is the most common habitat.
- Various plants and animals find homes in a pinyon-juniper woodland.
- Zion pinyon-juniper woodland features:
 - Limited water availability, mostly from monsoon rains or snow
 - Dry air
 - Bare rock and crumbly soil
 - Occasional wildfires
 - Exposure to summer heat and winter cold

Ponderosa Pine Forest



Ponderosa Pine Forest

- A *ponderosa pine forest* is a habitat dominated by ponderosa pine trees.
- In Zion, this forest is found at the highest elevations of the park, typically on plateau and mountain tops.
- Many different plants and animals find home in a ponderosa pine forest.
- Zion ponderosa pine forest features:
 - Some water availability, largely from monsoon rains or snowmelt
 - Dry air most of the year
 - Occasional fires, particularly in spring and fall
 - Sun on the outside and shade on the interior of the tree canopy
 - Warm summers and cold, snowy winters